



Impacting Christian Leaders

THE BASICS OF BIBLICAL RESEARCH 2

Introduction to Biblical Research Paper/Writing

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Biblical Research holds the torch of truth (Ps 119:105) –
Dele Ilesanmi



LESSONS COVERED IN THIS MODULE

Lesson 1: Etymology and Concept of Research

Lesson 2: Research Writing

Lesson 3: Citations

Lesson 4: Quotations

Lesson 5: Techniques of Footnoting

Lesson 6: Bibliography

Lesson 7: Thesis Proposal Techniques

LESSON 2:

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL RESEARCH PAPER (WRITING)



TOPICS COVERED IN THIS LESSON

Unit 1: Preface

Unit 2: Why Biblical Research?

Unit 3: Types of Biblical Research

Unit 4: Process of Writing a Biblical Research Paper

Unit 5: Biblical Research Cycles/Process

Unit 6: Obstacle to Biblical Research

Unit 7: Recommendations

Unit 8: Conclusion



UNIT 1: PREFACE

The word “research” is formed from two separate words, namely, the prefix “re” means “do it again” and the noun “search” means “to look for”, “to investigate”, or “to examine”. As a way of recapitulation, research is, as a biblical concept, a purposeful, systematic, and spiritual inquiry into the truth to uncover the *revealed hidden truth* of God’s word as recorded in Scripture to establish and advance true wisdom, knowledge and understanding. It is a truth-seeking spiritual activity that transcends the understanding of a non-spiritual man (2Cor 2:10). Thus, in biblical research, truth cannot be found out by man’s intellect or philosophical reasoning, or by searching into religion or mysticism or the occult. There is no other way to uncover the truth of God except by God’s Spirit because He reveals it by His Spirit. Hence, the best research design suitable for biblical research methodology is pneumagogic or pneumatic research design. This type of biblical research design seeks to understand and explore spiritual phenomenon that involves prayers, spiritual epistemological reflections and discernment. Pneumatic or pneumagogic research design is conducted under the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit. Thus, to conduct a research work in any field of study that is biblically based such



UNIT 2

WHY BIBLICAL RESEARCH?



Doing research is the best way to learn to read and think critically. It is important for Christians, pastors, theologians, Bible students, Christian scholars, and professionals to engage in biblical research for many reasons. Some of the purposes and importance of conducting biblical research are listed below, though inexhaustive:

- To reveal God to human beings. Revelation can be seen as “that which is revealed or made known that which has been hidden or not known before.” Only the Christian Bible contains the revelation of God. Hence, we need to search and research the Bible because in it the God’s truth can be found.
- To uncover and establish the revealed hidden truth of God
- To have a deeper understanding of God’s word. Biblical research helps you understand the Bible's meaning, context, and application.
- Biblical research helps to accurately interpret the word of God, avoiding misconceptions and misapplications.



UNIT 2

WHY BIBLICAL RESEARCH? - Cont'd

- To obey divine order.
- It helps to pray according to God's will.
- It increases human knowledge and understanding of God.
- It leads to discovery. Searching the Bible will lead to new discoveries about God and His intention for us.
- It leads to breakthroughs. Understanding God's word will give us brilliant ideas that will lead to spiritual, scientific, and technological breakthroughs and other breakthroughs in all areas of human endeavours.
- It helps to appreciate God and His works.
- It helps to understand the historical, cultural, and literary context of the Bible.
- Biblical research fosters personal spiritual growth, applying biblical truths to life.
- Research equips teachers and pastors (preachers) to share the Bible's



UNIT 2

WHY BIBLICAL RESEARCH? - Cont'd

- Research contributes to the advancement of biblical scholarship. It will also expand the frontiers of biblical and theological knowledge.
- Biblical research develops critical thinking and discernment skills.
- Understanding different perspectives: Research exposes you to various interpretations and viewpoints.
- By engaging in biblical research, you can gain a richer understanding of the Bible, its message, and its application to life.
- It helps to seek wisdom and guidance for life's challenges and decisions.
- It helps to apply biblical truths to one's life, leading to spiritual growth and transformation.



UNIT 3

TYPES OF BIBLICAL RESEARCH

UNIT 3

TYPES OF BIBLICAL RESEARCH

1. Exegetical Research: Detailed analysis, explanation or interpretation of a specific biblical passage or verse in its original language and historical context.
2. Literary Research: Studies the literary structure, genre, and themes of a biblical text.
4. Theological Research: Explores the theological themes and concepts within a biblical text.
5. Comparative Research: Compares two or more biblical texts, authors, or genres.
6. Hermeneutical Research: Focuses on the interpretation and understanding of biblical texts.



UNIT 3

TYPES OF BIBLICAL RESEARCH - Cont'd

9. Intertextuality Research: Explores relationships and connections between different biblical texts.

10. Biblical Criticism Research: Examines the authenticity, authorship, and historical accuracy of biblical texts.

11. Biblical Archaeology Research: Examines the archaeological evidence related to biblical sites and events.

12. Biblical Linguistics Research: Studies the languages and linguistic features of biblical texts.

13. Biblical Historical-Critical Research: Examination of a biblical text's historical context, authorship, and



UNIT 3

TYPES OF BIBLICAL RESEARCH - Cont'd

14. Pneumatic or pneumagogic Research: Unlike secular research, biblical research is Spirit-led inquiry. Only the spiritual man can understand the things of the spirit because they are spiritually coded and interpreted (2Cor 2: 1-16). In this type of research, the researcher engages himself or herself in what Dele Ilesanmi calls, *spiritual-intellectual epistemology*. That is, the combination or integration of spirituality and intellectuality to gain a deeper understanding of divine truth.

15. Biblical Biographical Research: This can be called biographical or character study. It is a method of studying the Bible by examining the lives of its characters. This type of biblical research relates to the account of a biblical figure, his or her life, roles, ministry (office), how God used him or her, etc.

Other types of biblical research are: exploratory, explanatory, descriptive, quasi-experimental approach, quantitative, qualitative, action research, etc.

UNIT4

PROCESS OF WRITING

A BIBLICAL RESEARCH PAPER

UNIT 4

~~In general, research is a linear process. However, the step order may largely depend on the field of study, subject matter, and the researcher. In formal biblical research, the following steps can be followed:~~

Prayer: A biblical researcher needs to seek the face of God first before putting pen to paper.

Formulate or choose a topic with the help of the Holy Spirit: Select a specific theme, passage, or issue in the Bible to research.

Formulate the hypotheses or research questions that will guide the study.

Conduct research: Gather sources, including biblical commentaries, biblical scholarly articles, and biblical texts.



UNIT4

PROCESS OF WRITING A BIBLICAL RESEARCH PAPER - Cont'd

Develop a thesis statement: Clearly articulate your argument or position.

Write the paper: This typically includes:

- Introduction or Background to the study
 - Conceptual Definition (if any)
 - Operational Definition (if any)
 - Review of related literature (Literature review)
- Exegetical analysis of the biblical text/data
 - Theological implications (if any)
 - Recommendation (if any)
- Conclusion



UNIT4

PROCESS OF WRITING A BIBLICAL RESEARCH PAPER - Cont'd

Publication Options:

1. *Academic journals*: Submit to peer-reviewed journals, such as Mature Journal of the International Institute of Christian Theologians, Scholars, and Professionals, African Journal of Kingdom Education, Christopress Journal of Biblical Research and Intellectual Transformation, etc.
2. *Book publishers*: Consider publishing with reputable Christian publishers.
3. *Online platforms*: Share your research on websites, such as Research Gate, Google Scholar, Open Science Framework, Web of Science, Zenodo, Figshare, Dimensions, etc. All these online platforms are free.
4. *Conference presentations*: Present your research at Christian scholarly and academic conferences and seminars, such as th



Special Instructions

- Adhere to academic writing standards of the chosen publication outlet (e.g., SBL, Chicago Manual of Style, APA, MLA, etc).
- Engage with diverse perspectives and scholarship.
- Ensure your research is original and contributes to the field.
- Follow submission guidelines for your chosen publication outlet.

Note: Biblical Research Publication is a process



UNIT4

PROCESS OF WRITING A BIBLICAL RESEARCH PAPER - Cont'd

The Sources and Tools of Biblical Research

Primary Sources:

The Bible/Scriptures (both the Old and New Testaments).

Field sources, such as archaeological remains

Secondary Sources (library):

Bible Atlas: They are maps and geographical information on biblical locations.

Concordances: They are indexes of biblical words, phrases, and their occurrences.

Interlinear Bibles: Translations with original language texts and literal translations.

Study Bibles: Bibles with notes, cross-references, and study materials.

Bible Commentaries: They are in-depth explanations of biblical texts, often written by experts.

Lexicons: Dictionaries of biblical languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic) defining words and their meanings.

Bible Dictionaries: They are Reference works on biblical terms, concepts, and themes.

Biblical Encyclopedias: Comprehensive reference works on biblical topics.

Lexicon

Original Language Texts: Access to Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic texts.

Journals: Christian theological Journals: Scholarly articles and essays on biblical topics.

~~Historical and Cultural Resources: Works on ancient history, culture, and archaeology.~~



UNIT4

PROCESS OF WRITING A BIBLICAL RESEARCH PAPER - Cont'd

Electronic Sources:

- Christian websites
- Christian online Journals Here are some common **Biblical Research Tools:**

✓ Bible Software: Digital tools like Logos, Accordance, or Bible Works for research and analysis..

These tools aid researchers in understanding the biblical text, its context,

UNIT 5

BIBLICAL RESEARCH CYCLE/PROCESS

UNIT 5

BIBLICAL RESEARCH CYCLE/PROCESS

The Biblical Research Cycle is a process used to systematically study and interpret the Bible. It involves a series of steps that help you thoroughly understand a passage or topic. Here's an overview of the cycle.



BIBLICAL RESEARCH CYCLE/PROCESS – Cont'd



Figure 2: Research Cycle developed by D. A. Ilesanmi, 2024

UNIT6

OBSTACLES TO BIBLICAL RESEARCH

UNIT 6

OBSTACLES TO BIBLICAL RESEARCH

A number of perceived obstacles to biblical research are mentioned here as follows:

- i. Biblical researchers lack interest in biblical education
- ii. Lack of interest of pastors and Christian individuals and organisations in biblical research.
- iii. Lack of clear-cut policies on Biblical Christian Education and Biblical Research. “Biblical Christian Education” here means all Christian education programmes or courses that use the Bible as their inspired textbook and source of true information, such as Theology, Biblical Studies, Biblical Archaeology, etc.
- iv. Lack of unified centre for biblical research among biblical researchers.
- v. Lack of funds for biblical research by churches, Christian individuals, and organisations.
- vi. Lack of biblical research outlets dedicated mainly for the



UNIT 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Biblical research should be the focus of the contemporary churches to be able to have answers to some knotty questions being asked by non-Christians with the aim to pull down the church.
- Church pastors or leaders should foster biblical research among their congregants, not only to have answers to difficult questions but to bring them closer to God.
- Bible College or seminary students should be prepared and trained in the art and science of biblical research. “Science” here means “knowledge.”
- Theological or Bible colleges should make quality biblical research their main focus.
- The use of secular methodologies and approaches in Christian institutions, Bible colleges, and churches should



UNIT 7

RECOMMENDATIONS - Cont'd

- Quality biblical research should be encouraged and funded by churches, Christian individuals, and organisations.
- Publishing outlets, such as the Journal of Biblical Research in Theology, in Biblical Christian education, in Leadership, Biblical Studies, Biblical Languages, etc., should be encouraged and funded.
- Biblical research should be recognised as a distinct field of study.
- Biblical research institutes or centres should be established, funded, and encouraged.

UNIT 8

CONCLUSION

UNIT 8

CONCLUSION

The concepts of research and biblical research have been given some working definitions to illuminate the imagination of the biblical researchers to the task ahead of them, with emphasis placed on the biblical frame of reference rather than just a display of empty secular academic theories. The study also presented the need for a biblically based research by highlighting the important role of biblical research. This author argues that biblical research directs researchers to the Truth (God) the world is searching for because it holds the touch of truths and true knowledge. The Ilesanmi asserts that biblical research is a purposeful, systematic, spiritual, and epistemological inquiry into the truth to uncover the *revealed hidden truth* of God's word to establish and advance true wisdom, knowledge and understanding. The biblical researchers are strongly advised to hold on to the word of God, the Bible, as th



UNIT 9

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<https://eduhutch.blogspot.com/2023/03/etymology-of-word-research.html> 19/01/2024



Tutor-Mark Assignment

(1.) Why Biblical Research? (2.) Mention five types of Biblical Research (3.) Explain “Pneumatic or pneumagogic Research”.

Guidelines:

Answer to question three (3) should not be less than 100 words

Your assignment should be typed on A4 paper size and send it to my email as an attachment

The deadline is a week from now

The first page of your assignment MUST include the following:

Your Full Name:..... Matriculation

No.....

Course Title:..... Course Code:

.....

Name of Your School:..... Course Lecturer:

.....

Date:..... Dept/Level.....

CHOSEN LIFE CHRISTIAN



“I may know many things but I do not know everything.”

**Thanks for your rapt
attention**



Pastor (Dr) Dele Alaba Ilesanmi (OND, DDPIT, B.Ed., PGDE, PGDTh., PDGM., M.A., PhD, ThD), an Associate Research Professor, specialises in Theoretical and Applied Theology of Biblical Christian Education and Biblical Research (the fields he is currently pioneering). He has developed some biblical theories and concepts, such as *Theogenesial Theory*, *Pneumagenesial Theory*, *Quantum Theory*, *Theory of Absolute Ownership-Creationism*, *Parabolic Differential Learning Theory*, *Supra-nationalistic Salvation Theory*, *Divino-Experiential Learning Theory*, *Divino-Constructivism*, *Continual Learning Theory*, *Theogogy*, *Pneumagogy*, *Christogogy*, *Bibliogogy*, *Bibliogogics*, *Homeogogy/Filiogogy*, etc. As of 2024, he has over 90 publications to his credit, including nine books and Christian research articles published in different reputable and registered journals and websites. To connect with this astute author: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4874-0759> ; pstdeleilesanmi3@gmail.com; +234-08062197040.

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